CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1 - 19. (canceled)

- 1 20. (new) A locking element for holding together
 - threaded parts such as screws and nuts against undesired loosening,
- the locking element comprising two annular lock washers lying on
- each other and having center holes, the washers having inner faces
- lying on each other and provided with teeth and outer faces turned
- away from each other and also provided with teeth, one of the
- 7 washers being formed at the respective center hole on the
- respective outer face with a rounding.
- 1 21. (new) The locking element defined in claim 21,
- wherein edges of the teeth of the inner faces are oriented off-
- 3 radial.

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- 1 22. (new) The locking element defined in claim 21,
- wherein edges of the teeth of the inner faces are V-shaped.
- 1 23. (new) The locking element defined in claim 21,
 - wherein edges of the teeth of the inner faces are U-shaped.
- 1 24. (new) The locking element defined in claim 21,
- wherein edges of the teeth of the inner faces are S-shaped.

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- (new) The locking element defined in claim 21, 1 wherein edges of the teeth of the outer faces are arcuate. 2
- (new) The locking element defined in claim 20,
- further comprising a sleeve connecting the lock washers to each
- other and fitting around outer surfaces of the washers. 3
- (new) The locking element defined in claim 26, 1
- wherein the sleeve has at leat one lip that projects inward over or 2
- into an edge of at least one of the lock washers. 3
- (new) The locking element defined in claim 27, 1
- 2 wherein the lip is annular.
- (new) The locking element defined in claim 27, 1
- wherein the lip is formed by tabs. 2
- (new) The locking element defined in claim 27, 1
- wherein the lip is formed by annular segments. 2
- (new) The locking element defined in claim 26, 1
- wherein the sleeve is a slotted ring. 2

- 1 32. (new) The locking element defined in claim 26,
 - wherein a transition between the sleeve and the lip has a rounding
- 3 or a chamfer.
- 1 33. (new) The locking element defined in claim 26,
 - wherein eacg of the lock washers has a groove for receiving a
- 3 respective lip of the sleeve.